

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05  
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 L-03 /094 W  
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P 280633Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5451

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, NZ  
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS  
  
REF: STATE 042841

1. I RECEIVED TODAY THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM FRANK CORNER EXPRESSING THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S (GNZ) DISAPPOINTMENT AT OUR REFUSAL TO HOLD JOINT ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS THIS YEAR. BASED ON MY ASSOCIATION WITH CORNER OVER MY FOUR YEARS AS AMBASSADOR HERE, I REGARD THIS LETTER AS BEING, FOR HIM, A PARTICULARLY STRONGLY WORDED REPRESENTATION. THE LETTER ALSO CONFIRMS MORE INFORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT CONVEYED TO MY STAFF BY SENIOR GNZ OFFICIALS, NOT ONLY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY AS WELL. NO ONE WITH WHOM WE SPOKE ACCEPTS OUR JUSTIFICATION (REFTEL) FOR NOT HOLDING THESE TALKS, FEELING RATHER THAT THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, TO THE CONTRARY, WOULD BE A LOGICAL FOLLOW UP AND SUPPLEMENT TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONVERSATIONS HELD IN RECENT MONTHS IN WASHINGTON AND TO THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL AND DEPUTY STR VISITS TO

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WELLINGTON.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

MY DEAR AMBASSADOR,

I AM WRITING TO YOU TO REPLY TO YOUR AIDE-MEMOIRE OF

22 FEBRUARY CONVEYING THE VIEW OF YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT A MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND/UNITED STATES ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IS NOT NECESSARY THIS YEAR AND SUGGESTING AS AN ALTERNATIVE A ROUND OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE IMF/IBRD MEETING IN SEPTEMBER IN WASHINGTON.

YOU WILL KNOW THAT THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS AND IS MOST ANXIOUS AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT THEY NOT BE LOST. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MEETINGS AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL IN RECENT MONTHS, WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF OUR TWO COUNTRIES WERE NO LONGER TO HAVE THE FORUM PROVIDED BY THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR REGULAR, INFORMAL AND DETAILED EXCHANGES OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD IMPRESS AGAIN ON YOUR GOVERNMENT THE IMPORTANCE THAT IS ATTACHED HERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ANNUAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. IF AN EARLIER DATE IS INCONVENIENT TO WASHINGTON WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD OUR CONSULTATIONS AFTER THE IMF/IBRD MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. OUR DELEGATION TO THAT MEETING WILL BE COMPETENT TO CONDUCT AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH AFFECT OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I WOULD HOPE THAT WASHINGTON IS SIMILARLY DISPOSED AS WE WOULD BE UNHAPPY IF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS DID NOT RETAIN THE STRUCTURED APPROACH OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

(F.H. CORNER)  
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

3. IN LIGHT OF ALL THE ABOVE, I WOULD URGE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER ITS POSITION AS THE GNZ REQUESTS. A FEW DAYS OF FRANK, INFORMAL TALKS ON TOPICS OF CONCERN TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD, IN MY OPINION, BE BUT A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO THE GNZ FOR THE SUPERB COOPERATION WE RECEIVE FROM THIS GOVERNMENT ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO US.  
SELDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TEXT, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW ZEALAND REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS  
**TAGS:** EGEN, ETRD, ECON, PDIP, NZ, US, (CORNER, FRANK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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